

REMARKS

Claims 5, 12, and 16 remain in the application with claims 5 and 16 having been amended hereby and claim 22 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Gefvert in view of Ruzicka, Siems et al., and Glover.

The advantages provided by the present invention in setting up a multiple channel audio system have already been previously explained. Nevertheless, some further advantages provided by the present invention relate to the manner in which the output terminals in the form of sockets are provided on the rear panel of the electronic apparatus, that is, the output amplifier. This feature of the present invention relates to providing sockets having pins for connection to the speaker cables. Such an arrangement is not typically feasible in a high power environment since it is not safe to have high voltages on exposed pins, which is why electrical sockets are just that and the plug inserted therein constitutes the male element having pins. Such a dangerous condition is not present in an audio system, such as that contemplated by the present invention. Furthermore, by providing the pins in the output connectors formed as sockets, it is possible then to provide coupling holes as the female portion on the plugs affixed to the end of the speaker cables. This makes it easy and less expensive to manufacture the coupling holes of the plug in the form of rolled brass elements but, moreover, makes the plugs lighter in weight and, hence, the speaker cables are

lighter in weight. Furthermore, since it is less expensive to manufacture the coupling holes rather than the pins and because a user is more likely to change the speaker cables rather than changing the output pins, the changing of speaker cables then becomes less expensive since the cables themselves are less expensive.

Moreover, because it is intended to make the ease of setup as great as possible, the color coding placed at the output terminals is made in such a way that the color portion completely surrounds the output terminal, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, for example. This lets the person setting up the system to do so with ease.

The references have all been previously discussed and it is respectfully submitted that no references shows or suggests using female plugs on the ends of the speaker cables connected to the male pin sockets mounted on the rear panel of the audio source, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Gefvert simply shows the connections between the audio source and the loudspeakers. Furthermore, Gefvert does not show or suggest the feature of the present invention wherein the output terminals are arranged on the rear panel of the electronic apparatus according to the physical placement of the multiple loudspeakers. This can be seen from Gefert in Fig. 8B in which the signal output terminals are simply arranged in a line and do not reflect the location of the surround speakers 106 and 108, which would clearly be required

to be in the rear of the listening area.

The examiner notes that Ruzicka discloses the distinguishing of output terminals by use of a plurality of colors. Nevertheless, it is respectfully pointed out that the examiner stops reading the disclosure of Ruzicka too soon, because Ruzicka clearly states that the measures taken for the installation involving color coding to the connections at the speaker and the signal source have failed to provide the consumer with a sufficiently easy way to install the sound system.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Ruzicka teaches away from the present invention, because Ruzicka teaches one with ordinary skill in the art that color coding in a multiple channel audio system does not work. Thus, one with ordinary skill in the art would not be led to the system of the present invention. In fact, because of Ruzicka's clear teaching, in making the instant combination of references, the examiner is relying on the teaching of the present invention and not on the teaching of Ruzicka, since Ruzicka says it does not work.

In that regard, Siems et al. also states that while color coding is known, it does not work and, thus, Siems et al. proceeds to describe a completely different solution than that provided by the present invention.

Although Glover does disclose a means for maintaining a polarity between a male housing portion and a female housing portion, it is respectfully pointed out that as described above relative to the other references, Glover provides the

female housing portion of the connector mounted in the rear panel of the electrical apparatus and not in the plug of the cable, as in the present invention. Thus, in Glover the pins are in the male housing portion 1 connected to the cable and not in the female housing portion 3 mounted on the rear panel of the electronic apparatus, as in the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, by reason of the failure of the references to provide the above-described features of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, and Siems et al. and further in view of Glover and Lee.

Claim 12 depends from claim 5, which for the reasons set forth hereinabove is thought to be patentably distinct over the cited references, and for at least those very same reasons claim 12 is also submitted to be patentably distinct thereover.

Furthermore, as will be noted, each end of the cable in Lee is provided with an RCA plug and, thus, corresponding to a pin but not to a coupling hole, as in the present invention. Although the present invention provides a plug member on the end of a cable, it does not provide a plug member, such as an RCA plug with a pin, as provided in Lee.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable in view of Ruzicka in view of Siems et al. and Glover.

As pointed out hereinabove, none of these references provide color coding that completely surrounds the output terminal on the rear panel of the electronic apparatus in which the output terminal is formed as a socket having pins that cooperate with a plug having coupling holes on the end of the speaker cable.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in combination.

The cancellation of claim 22 renders moot the rejection thereof under 35 USC 103.

In the above discussion of the references, the individual features are, of course, discussed in the context of the combination provided by the present invention. The fact that the features of one reference may be combined with another reference is not disputed. What is disputed, however, is the fact that when one reference says "do not do this", then one with ordinary skill in the art would not be led to do that. It is the teaching of the present invention that provides the motivation to transcend the prior art and make the presently claimed combination. Although elements of the invention may be known in the prior art, their combination may not necessarily be obvious, unless the benefit of such combination

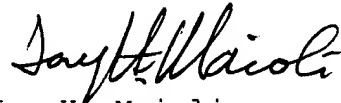
is described. Furthermore, as pointed out hereinabove, at least one feature of the present invention is not known in the prior art, that is, the provision of the pins in the sockets at the back of the panel of the electronic apparatus cooperating with the coupling holes of the female plug portions on the speaker cables.

By reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a system for connecting a multichannel audio system, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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